

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 241

July 28, 1998, 6:30 p.m.
Page S-9129 Temp. Record

TREASURY APPROPRIATIONS/Tax Code Termination

SUBJECT: Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999 . . . S. 2312. Hutchinson motion to waive section 202(b) of H.Con. Res. 67 (the Budget Resolution for fiscal year 1996) for the consideration of the Hutchinson/Brownback amendment No. 3249.

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 49-49

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 2312, the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1999, will provide \$29.924 billion in new budget authority (BA) for the Department of the Treasury, Postal Service, Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies. This amount is \$4.598 billion more than provided in fiscal year (FY) 1998, and is \$3.095 billion more than re

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YEAS (49)			NAYS (49)			NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (47 or 87%)		Democrats (2 or 5%)	Republicans (7 or 13%)	Democrats (42 or 95%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Moseley-Braun	Chafee	Akaka	Inouye	Helms- ^{3AY}	Harkin- ^{4AN}
Allard	Inhofe	Reid	Cochran	Baucus	Johnson		
Ashcroft	Jeffords		Grassley	Biden	Kennedy		
Bennett	Kempthorne		Hagel	Bingaman	Kerrey		
Bond	Kyl		Roberts	Boxer	Kerry		
Brownback	Lott		Roth	Breaux	Kohl		
Burns	Lugar		Stevens	Bryan	Landrieu		
Campbell	Mack			Bumpers	Lautenberg		
Coats	McCain			Byrd	Leahy		
Collins	McConnell			Cleland	Levin		
Coverdell	Murkowski			Conrad	Lieberman		
Craig	Nickles			Daschle	Mikulski		
D'Amato	Santorum			Dodd	Moynihan		
DeWine	Sessions			Dorgan	Murray		
Domenici	Shelby			Durbin	Reed		
Enzi	Smith, Bob			Feingold	Robb		
Faircloth	Smith, Gordon			Feinstein	Rockefeller		
Frist	Snowe			Ford	Sarbanes		
Gorton	Specter			Glenn	Torricelli		
Gramm	Thomas			Graham	Wellstone		
Grams	Thompson			Hollings	Wyden		
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						
Hutchinson							

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

amendment thus fell.

Those favoring the motion to waive contended:

Each year, Americans spend over 5.4 billion hours trying to figure out how much they owe in taxes. More time is spent trying to comply with the tax laws than is spent producing all of the cars, trucks, and planes in this country. The cost of trying to comply for individuals and businesses, by some estimates, is more than \$225 billion annually. Each year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spends \$8 billion to enforce those tax laws, yet even it cannot figure out exactly what those laws are. In approximately one-fourth of all calls for assistance, it gives wrong answers. Professional tax preparers are no better. Money magazine asked a number of such tax professionals to prepare a tax return. They were each given exactly the same basic information for a family's tax return. Those professionals turned in 45 different answers as to what that family's tax liability was. Every year, 6.4 million Americans show up at IRS customer service centers, and, according to the General Accounting Office, over 6 million of them are just seeking answers to tax questions. Additionally, approximately 100 million calls are made to IRS hotlines.

Since the creation of the income tax in 1913, an average of 100 pages per year have been added to the Tax Code. Currently, the code is a 10,000-plus page monster with millions of words of accompanying regulatory language to explain it. Many of the provisions that have been added to it over the years are obscure items that have been snuck in to benefit special interests; others have been put in as honest reform efforts. Even when changes are made to give huge tax relief, such as the Taxpayer Relief Act from last Congress, the result has been more complexit